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**Identical letters dated 31 January 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I write yet again to express Israel's serious concern about the rockets flying out of the Gaza Strip day after day into our homes, cities and communities. It is clear that these acts of terrorism could ignite an escalation of conflict in our already volatile region. Unfortunately, some members of the Security Council continue to turn a blind eye to the serious dangers posed by these attacks.

Last Friday, 27 January 2012, during the Jewish Sabbath, terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket into the area of Shar Hanegev in southern Israel. In the last two weeks alone, 14 rockets and mortars have been fired into Israeli communities, deliberately targeting the civilian population.

Israel expects the Security Council, and all responsible members of the international community, to condemn the relentless rocket fire from Gaza without any further delay. We also expect President Abbas, and other leaders of the Palestinian Authority, to finally raise their voices and fulfil their fundamental obligations to clearly denounce these acts of terrorism.

Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization fully responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza, where it remains in de facto control. Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haim **Waxman**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires ad interim

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